

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for displaying a message indicator in association connection with a predetermined interval of playback of an audiovisual production, the method comprising:
 - playing back displaying the audiovisual production; and
 - displaying a the message indicator substantially during the predetermined interval of playback relating to a portion of the audiovisual production;
 - determining that a user has selected the message indicator while the message indicator is displayed; and
 - displaying at least a portion of the message in response to the user selection of the message indicator.
2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least a portion of the message is alphanumeric text displayed in a text window.
3. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising:
 - accepting a signal from a viewer-user input device to resize an area used to display the audiovisual production; and
 - accepting a signal from a viewer-user input device to allow resizing of the text window.
4. (canceled)
5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the message indicator includes an icon defining a portion of the audiovisual production to be displayed upon selection of the icon.
6. -48. (canceled)

49. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the message indicator includes a header of the message.

50. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the message indicator includes a subject line of the message.

51. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the message is included in a thread of multiple messages, the method further comprising:

displaying a plurality of messages in the thread in response to determining that the user has selected the message indicator.

52. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the audiovisual production is displayed in a first display area, the method further comprising:

dynamically resizing the first display area to a second display area upon determining the user has selected the message indicator, the second display area being smaller than the first display area and displaying the audiovisual production.

53. (new) The method of claim 52, wherein displaying the at least a portion of the message comprises displaying the at least a portion of the message in a portion of space vacated by the resizing of the first display area.

54. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least a portion of the message comprises a body of the message.

55. (new) The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying a threaded view of additional message indicators for messages related to the message indicator.

56. (new) The method of claim 55, further comprising:
determining that the user has selected one of the additional message indicators; and

expanding the one of the additional message indicators to include at least a portion of the message associated with the one of the additional message indicators.

57. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein a plurality of message indicators are displayed, the method further comprising:
removing a message indicator in the plurality of message indicators from the display after a period of time has passed.

58. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein upon determining the user has selected the message indicator, the method further comprising:
changing from a first display mode to a second display mode, the second display mode including an expanded messaging interface to display the at least a portion of the message.

59. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the message indicator is displayed in a first display area, wherein the at least a portion of the message is displayed in a second display area in a different area from the first display area.

60. (currently amended) An apparatus configured to display a message indicator in association with a predetermined interval of playback of an audiovisual production, the apparatus comprising:

one or more processors; and
a memory containing instructions that, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform a set of steps comprising:
playing back the audiovisual production;
displaying the message indicator substantially during the predetermined interval of playback of the audiovisual production;
determining that a user has selected the message indicator while the message indicator is displayed; and
displaying at least a portion of the message in response to the user selection of the message indicator.

61. (new) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein the at least a portion of the message is alphanumeric text displayed in a text window.

62. (new) The apparatus of claim 61, wherein the instructions cause the one or more processors to perform further steps comprising:

accepting a signal from a user input device to resize an area used to display the audiovisual production; and

accepting a signal from a user input device to allow resizing of the text window.

63. (new) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein the message indicator includes an icon.

64. (new) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein the message indicator includes a header of the message.

65. (new) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein the message indicator includes a subject line of the message.

66. (new) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein the message is included in a thread of multiple messages, wherein the instructions cause the one or more processors to perform a further step comprising:

displaying a plurality of messages in the thread in response to determining that the user has selected the message indicator.

67. (new) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein the audiovisual production is displayed in a first display area, wherein the instructions cause the one or more processors to perform a further step comprising:

dynamically resizing the first display area to a second display area upon determining the user has selected the message indicator, the second display area being smaller than the first display area and displaying the audiovisual production.

68. (new) The apparatus of claim 67, wherein the instructions cause the one or more processors to display the at least a portion of the message in a portion of space vacated by the resizing of the first display area.

69. (new) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein the at least a portion of the message comprises a body of the message.

70. (new) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein the instructions cause the one or more processors to perform further steps comprising:

displaying a threaded view of additional message indicators for messages related to the message indicator.

71. (new) The apparatus of claim 70, wherein the instructions cause the one or more processors to perform further steps comprising:

determining that the user has selected one of the additional message indicators; and

expanding the one of the additional message indicators to include at least a portion of the message associated with the one of the additional message indicators.

72. (new) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein a plurality of message indicators are displayed, wherein the instructions cause the one or more processors to perform a further step comprising:

removing a message indicator in the plurality of message indicators from the display after a period of time has passed.

73. (new) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein upon determining the user has selected the message indicator, wherein the instructions cause the one or more processors to perform a further step comprising:

changing from a first display mode to a second display mode, the second display mode including an expanded messaging interface to display the at least a portion of the message.

74. (new) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein the message indicator is displayed in a first display area, wherein the at least a portion of the message is displayed in a second display area in a different area from the first display area.

75. (new) A computer-readable medium including instructions for displaying a message indicator in association with a predetermined interval of playback of an audiovisual production, the computer-readable medium comprising:

one or more instructions for playing back the audiovisual production;

one or more instructions for displaying the message indicator substantially during the predetermined interval of playback of the audiovisual production;

one or more instructions for determining that a user has selected the message indicator while the message indicator is displayed; and

one or more instructions for displaying at least a portion of the message in response to the user selection of the message indicator.

76. (new) The computer-readable medium of claim 75, wherein the at least a portion of the message is alphanumeric text displayed in a text window.

77. (new) The computer-readable medium of claim 76, further comprising:

one or more instructions for accepting a signal from a user input device to resize an area used to display the audiovisual production; and

one or more instructions for accepting a signal from a user input device to allow resizing of the text window.

78. (new) The computer-readable medium of claim 75, wherein the message indicator includes an icon.

79. (new) The computer-readable medium of claim 75, wherein the message indicator includes a header of the message.

80. (new) The computer-readable medium of claim 75, wherein the message indicator includes a subject line of the message.

81. (new) The computer-readable medium of claim 75, wherein the message is included in a thread of multiple messages, the computer-readable medium further comprising:

one or more instructions for displaying a plurality of messages in the thread in response to determining that the user has selected the message indicator.

82. (new) The computer-readable medium of claim 75, wherein the audiovisual production is displayed in a first display area, the computer-readable medium further step comprising:

one or more instructions for dynamically resizing the first display area to a second display area upon determining the user has selected the message indicator, the second display area being smaller than the first display area and displaying the audiovisual production.

83. (new) The computer-readable medium of claim 82, further comprising one or more instructions for displaying the at least a portion of the message in a portion of space vacated by the resizing of the first display area.

84. (new) The computer-readable medium of claim 75, wherein the at least a portion of the message comprises a body of the message.

85. (new) The computer-readable medium of claim 75, further comprising:

one or more instructions for displaying a threaded view of additional message indicators for messages related to the message indicator.

86. (new) The computer-readable medium of claim 85, further comprising:

one or more instructions for determining that the user has selected one of the additional message indicators; and

one or more instructions for expanding the one of the additional message indicators to include at least a portion of the message associated with the one of the additional message indicators.

87. (new) The computer-readable medium of claim 75, wherein a plurality of message indicators are displayed, the computer-readable medium further comprising:

one or more instructions for removing a message indicator in the plurality of message indicators from the display after a period of time has passed.

88. (new) The computer-readable medium of claim 75, wherein upon determining the user has selected the message indicator, the computer-readable medium further comprising:

one or more instructions for changing from a first display mode to a second display mode, the second display mode including an expanded messaging interface to display the at least a portion of the message.

89. (new) The computer-readable medium of claim 75, wherein the message indicator is displayed in a first display area, wherein the at least a portion of the message is displayed in a second display area in a different area from the first display area.